ANTARCTIC PRESS
FRED PERRY'S
遺 LEGACY 産
by FRED PERRY
SECOND INHERITANCE

first...
DEFEAT....

then...
PAIN...

finally...
OBLIVION...
but then...

DELIVERANCE...
IMMEROR...

n...no... it's ME, Joe...

TRACY...

Tracy...

WH-- WHERE AM I??

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WRATH!!?

JOE!!! NO!!! LIE STILL!

YOU HAVEN'T HEALED YET, JOE.

JUST STAY PUT FOR A LITTLE LONGER...

VICKY!!

SIS... A-ARE WE IN A CAR?

YES.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

ASK SHIVA.

WE'VE LEFT YOUR HOMETOWN, JOSEPH.

d-DUE TO ... MY MISTAKES....

...It's been taken by the WRATH....

MR. CASTLE, MAY WE PULL INTO THAT REST STOP AHEAD?

THEN... IT'S ALL GONE?

THE WHOLE TOWN??

TRACY... it...IT WOULD BE CONSERVATIVE TO ESTIMATE... THAT THE ENTIRE STATE OF VIRGINIA IS...

gone...

I--I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING...

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THIS ISN'T A NIGHTMARE...

now...

DESPERATION...

CONFUSION...

AND DOUBT.

WHY US? WHY ME?? WHY HAS THE LEGACY SPELL CHOSEN ME TO FIGHT?

WE--I -- COULDN'T DO ANYTHING!

When it came right down to it....

I couldn't do ANYTHING...

I'M GONNA STRETCH MY LEGS.

YOU COMIN', TRACY?

N-NO, THANKS...

I'LL JUST WAIT HERE... WITH JOE.

UH... HEY... KID.

SHIVA.

UH, YEAH... RIGHT. SHIVA...

LOOK... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE...

I-I SAW MY PARTNER CHANGE INTO A MONSTER BACK THERE...

THEN THE ENTIRE FORCE TOO!!

AND THEN THE WHOLE TOWN...

JUST BEFORE THE WHOLE THING WENT UP IN FLAMES!!

AS I STATED EARLIER, MR. CASTLE...

THE WRATH...

IT CLAIMED THEM ALL...

AND SOON, IT WILL TRY TO SPREAD....

TO ENSLAVE THE SOULS OF EVERYONE ELSE ON EARTH...

WRATH??

WH-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT??

WHAT'S THIS "WRATH"??

A-A DISEASE??

A CULT??

ALIENS???

Shrrp

DEMONS???

I only know what it DOES...

And what it ALWAYS tries to do...

I don't know...

EVER SINCE IT FIRST APPEARED ON EARTH...

THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO...

THE ARCHESSENCE HAS ATTEMPTED TO ENSLAVE THE SOULS OF HUMANITY.

DURING THAT FIRST BATTLE... THAT FIRST STRUGGLE...

...TEN OF EARTH'S STRONGEST HEROES GATHERED AND DEFEATED THE WRATH...

FWA

BUT NOTHING... NOTHING COULD DESTROY IT... THE WRATH WOULD RETURN.

AND NOW, I FEAR THE WRATH'S CURRENT AVATAR... THE DEMI-WRATH, IS ITS MOST CUNNING AND POWERFUL INCARNATION EVER...

THIS IS THE VERY FIRST TIME THE WRATH HAS BEEN STRONG ENOUGH TO SPREAD SO QUICKLY...

EVEN WITH THE SOUL'S MEMORY BEQUEATHED TO ME BY THE WIZARD'S LEGACY...

I COULD NOT COUNTER THE WRATH.

SOUL'S MEMORY??

WIZARD'S LEGACY??

MR. CASTLE...

FWA

JOSEPH, TRACY, VICKY AND MYSELF...

WE ARE THE HEIRS OF THE VERY FIRST HEROES WHO DEFEATED THE WRATH.

THEY SACRIFICED THEMSELVES...

FOR THE SAKE OF ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS.

SO THAT WE WOULDN'T BE POWERLESS AGAINST THE WRATH.

SHIVA...
Y-THE WAY YOU'RE ACTING...? THE WAY YOU'RE TALKING...?
YOU SOUND AS THOUGH... WE'VE ALREADY LOST?
YOU KNOW... Y-YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO SCARE ME....
I DON'T KNOW, VICTORIA...
I DON'T KNOW HOW WE CAN POSSIBLY WIN NOW...
THE WRATH HAS BECOME TOO STRONG...
I--
I THOUGHT WE WERE LEAVING TO PREPARE OURSELVES...
TO FIND OUT HOW TO USE THESE ABILITIES WE'VE INHERITED...
YOU MEAN TO SAY...
EVEN IF WE TRAINED HARD...? EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE TWO HEIRS TO THE FIGHTERS LEGACY...?
EVEN IF WE CAN GET DURE TO HELP US?
....
THOSE SPELLS I JUST CAST...
WERE CALLS FOR HELP.
IT IS MY HOPE THAT OTHER HEIRS OF THE LEGACY HAVE AWAKENED...
THAT SOME HAVE GATHERED AS WE HAVE...
AND HAVE SURPASSED OUR DEVELOPMENT AND ABILITIES...
THAT IS HOW DESPERATE I--

....
Incredible...
SHIVA??
DID YOU DO THAT?
VICTORIA... MY DEAR FRIEND...
TO CREATE A DISPLAY EQUAL TO THIS WOULD REQUIRE ME TO BE FULLY ATTUNED TO MY INHERITANCE...
A FEAT THAT WOULD TAKE ME AT LEAST ANOTHER FULL YEAR OF CONSTANT MEDITATION AND SELF-TRAINING...
THEN... WHAT IS IT??
THAT, MY FRIEND...
...is a sign...
WHATS GOIN' ON OUT HERE!!
WHAT THE FIZNUCK IS THAT???
IS THE WRATH HERE?? WE UNDER ATTACK??
DUDE. THERE'S NO REASON TO BE ALARMED.
NO NEED TO BREAK THE "POCKET" I MADE FOR YOU...
SHIVA... THAT "SIGN"... WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
IT MEANS THERE'S STILL HOPE AFTER ALL, VICKY.
IT MEANS WE HAVE TO HURRY...
IT MEANS OUR FRIENDS ARE WAITING FOR US...

...WAITING FOR US IN NEW YORK...
HEIR OF THE WIZZARD...
THANK YOU...
...FOR THE TIME YOU BOUGHT THE REST OF US...
I SWEAR I WILL NOT LET IT GO TO WASTE.
WE CAN WIN... WE WILL WIN.

I WISH I WAS AS CONFIDENT AS YOU ARE...
HEIR OF THE PRIEST...
I WISH I COULD SEE A SURE WAY FOR US...FOR HUMANITY TO SURVIVE...
...LET ALONE DEFEAT THE WRATH.
TRUE. THERE IS NO "SURE WAY"...
THEN... HOW CAN YOU BE CERTAIN WE WILL WIN?
I HAVE FAITH.

DESPITE ATTEMPTS BY GOVERNMENT, FEDERAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ALL ATTEMPTS TO RE-ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH THE GREATER PORTION OF THE STATE OF VIRGINIA'S SOUTHERN AREA AND THE NORTHERN AREAS OF NORTH CAROLINA HAVE BEEN FRUITLESS...
ALL ATTEMPTS BY SATELLITE, OVER-LAND AND RADIO CONTACT HAVE ALSO BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL.
CURRENT SPECULATION AS TO THE CAUSE OF THE COMPLETE "BLACK-OUT" OF THE AREAS RANGES FROM A MASSIVE NUCLEAR MELTDOWN OF ONE OF THE POWERPLANTS TO AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING ONE OF THE NUCLEAR-GRADE WEAPONS AT THE NORFOLK NAVAL BASE...
A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED, BUT THE EXACT CAUSE HAS YET TO BE OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED.
YOU BELIEVE HOW CRAZY THAT IS, CARMEN?
THERE YA GO... DIET GRAPE...
THANKS, GUS. KEEP THE CHANGE.
'EY... SPEARS!! GET ME A PEPSI WHY DONCHA... 'N' TAKE A LOOK OVER HERE...
I LOOK LIKE YER MAID?
GET YER OWN DAMN DRINK, CHIEF...
YEAH... YOU DO LOOK LIKE MY MAID, THERE.
'N' YOU OWE ME A PEPSI...
I WIN THE BET.
TAKE A LOOK.
YER BOY'S AT IT AGAIN...
WHAT??? GIMME THAT!!
BY THE WAY... DON'T CALL ME CHIEF...
I AIN'T CHIEF NO MORE... REMEMBER?
SON...
OF...
A B*TCH!!!
REESE!!!
YOU PROMISED!!!

CHIEF! SCOOT OVER!
I GOTTA DRIVE!
YEAH, YEAH I KNEW IT
YOU STILL OWE ME MY PEPSI...
POLICE
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE "TAGGED" THE E.S. BUILDING!!
DAMN YOU, REESE!!!
I'D LIKE TO KNOW HOW, MYSELF.
'N' THERE'RE WORSE TAGS THAN A CROSS.
DAMMIT!! WHY DIDN'T THE CAPTAIN TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED?
PROBABLY 'CAUSE HE KNOWS YOU'D TAKE IT PERSONAL.
--IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL, IF YOU ASK ME
I HAPPEN TO LIKE HIS ART-WORK.
--AS LONG AS HE'S USIN' HIS USUAL PAINT...
THE STUFF THAT VANISHES IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.
MAKES NO DIFFERENCE, CHIEF.
HE BROKE THE LAW.
"HE BROKE A PROMISE..."

WELL... HERE WE GO AGAIN, BRENTON

BETTER CALL IN TO SEE IF THEY MANAGED TO GET THAT WARRANT READY THIS TIME..

MIGHT AS WELL...

BUT I WOULDN'T BET ON IT

DISPATCH, THIS IS CAR EIGHT-TWENTY

WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE SUSPECT'S LAST KNOWN WHERE-ABOUTS..

ALL WE NEED IS A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST, OVER..

NEGATIVE ON THAT WARRANT, SERGEANT

ALL OF THE EVIDENCE FOR THE CRIME HAS COMPLETELY VANISHED...

AGAIN

WAIT, I THOUGHT THE LAB TOOK SOME SAMPLES OF THE PAINT...! PHOTOS OF THE IMAGE... DIGITAL!!!

ALL GONE VANISHED

WE CAN'T EVEN PROVE THERE WAS ANY VANDALISM...

JUST BRING 'IM IN FOR QUESTIONING DISPATCH OUT...

SARGE UP THERE

REESE...

COME ON DOWN...

WE NEED TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS DOWNTOWN.

SIGH...

TIME TO GIVE TO CAESAR WHAT IS CAESAR'S

OFFICERS
IF THIS IS ABOUT MY PAINTINGS ON THESE STRUCTURES. LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT--
--YOU'VE ALREADY OBTAINED PERMISSION FROM THE OWNER
YEAH, YEAH WE KNOW
COME ON, REESE YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHY WE'RE HERE
WE NEED TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU DID TO THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
LIKE HOW.. WHY... THE USUAL.
LET'S GO.
VERY WELL THOUGH A TRIP TO THE STATION ISN'T REALLY NECESSARY
I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THE LORD'S WORK RIGHT HE--
WH- WHAT THE---
HMPH
CLEVER.
VERY CLEVER, PRIEST
The wrath.

OFFICER HARDY! GET AWAY FROM HIM!!
NOW!!
GHK!
DESPOIL THE GLYPH, FRAGILITE
DO IT NOW OR I WILL KILL HIM!!
J-JEEZUS!!!
...
Don't worry
I've already prayed to him...
He's sending help
FRAGILITE
REMAIN CALM, OFFICER HARDY IT WON'T HURT YOU
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK...
--IF IT KILLS YOU THERE WILL BE NO REASON FOR ME TO REMOVE THE GLYPH.
IT WANTS NEEDS TO BE SET LOOSE IN ORDER TO INFORM THE REST--
TH-THE REST???
THIS IS AN AGENT OF HUMANITY'S MORTAL ENEMY, OFFICER HARDY

A SHADOW OF THE WRATH!!!
BRENTON!! LET ME GO!!
LET ME GO, OR I SWEAR!!
GO AHEAD SHADOW!!
I CAN'T DIE
I DON'T FEEL PAIN
BUT DON'T WORRY... I WILL INDEBAGE YOU
AS SOON AS THE PRIEST DISPELS THIS GLYPH!!!
SO...
THAT'S IT YOU'RE ONLY A SCOUT.
IT'S THE ONLY EXPLANATION.
THE DEMI-WRATH RE-EMERGED JUST A DAY AGO IN VIRGINIA...
THERE IS NO WAY IT'S POWER COULD HAVE REACHED THIS FAR NORTH SO SOON...
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO DESPERATE TO ESCAPE.
IF YOU CANNOT TELL THE WRATH OF MY APPEARANCE, IT WILL NOT KNOW UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.
WELL, REST ASSURED.. IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE. SHADOW...
RUN BACK TO YOUR MASTER...
THIS CITY IS UNDER THE LORD'S PROTECTION.
THERE...
THE GLYPH WILL RELEASE YOU AS SOON AS YOU RELEASE YOUR HOSTAGE.
HMPH!! CLEVER.. ALWAYS SO CLEVER PRIEST.
VERY WELL
I DO NOT DETECT A DECEPTION HERE
GO!!

AND NOW...
HMMM! I'M STILL...
YOU'LL BE FREE IN A MOMENT, WRATH-SHADOW.
AFTER OFFICER HARDY IS SAFELY AWAY.
WHAT IS-- WHAT HAPPENED TO--
OFFICER-
I NEED YOU TO GO FOR HELP!
I'LL MAKE SURE IT CAN'T ESC--
OUF
HMPH...! FOOLISH FOOLISH PRIEST!!
FALLING FOR SUCH A CLASSIC PLOY...
"GOOD COP"--
"BAD COP"!
ACTUALLY, OUR MASTER FINDS SUCH INVENTIVE DECEPTIONS MOST ENJOYABLE.
YOU HUMANS ARE SO CREATIVE IN YOUR TRICKERY.
IT IS NO WONDER OUR MASTER STRUGGLES SO DESPERATELY FOR YOUR SOULS...
FAREWELL, PRIEST.
WHEN YOU SEE YOUR LORD, TELL HIM.
THE WRATH COMES FOR HIM NEXT!!

Kii

Guardian Silver
Thank you.
AN OUTSIDER?!!
THE GLYPHS ON THE WALLS!! SOME OF THEM ARE SUMMONING GATES.
THAT'S HOW THE OUTSIDER ARRIVED!
KSH
RRAK!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN UP TO, ISN'T IT, PRIEST!
YOUR LITTLE "SCRIBBLES" HERE AND THERE
..ALL OVER THE CITY..
DID YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THESE RUNES COULD PROTECT YOU??

HEIR OF THE WIZARD
I SEE NOW HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO SURPRISE AND OVER-WHELM YOU
WE HAVE YET TO FULLY COMPREHEND THE WRATH AND ITS CAPABILITIES
MY PLANS HAVE TO BE EXECUTED FASTER THAN EXPECTED
I HAVE TO ABANDON A LOT OF MY INCOMPLETE WORK. .
BUT-
IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT I'VE FINISHED
MY LORD HAS GIVEN ME EVERY-THING I NEED
I JUST PRAY I HAVE THE WISDOM TO USE IT
PLEESE!!
STOP!!! RIGHT!!! THERE!!!
CARMEN?!
CARMEN, GET AWAY FROM HERE!! LEAVE!!
YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE NEED TO LEAVE THIS AREA IMMEDIATELY!!!

ch-CHIEF!! WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT!?
POLICE
'DON'T KNOW'
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR BOY PISSED IT OFF!!
SKRUM
DAMN YOU!

YOU DON'T BE THAT STRONG YETII
HOW CAN YOU USE DIVINE EYE SO SOON?
KSKSS
that··· that "TAG"
That was "The Divine Eye"
MY old "TAG"

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED!!
AND I'M GETTIN' SOME ANSWERS!!
HOLD ON THERE CARMEN!!
WHAT KINDA-- WHAT IN THE--
CHIEF!!!
--I'M GOING AFTER REESE!!
WE BOTH GO AFTER 'IM IN THE CAR!
HE'D LOSE US IN A MINUTE!!
PFFT!!
TOO TRICKY TO CHASE WITH A CAR...
TOO FAST TO CHASE ON FOOT...
I SHOULD KNOW!
I TAUGHT 'IM!!
BETTER GRAB THIS IN CASE THERE ARE MORE OF THOSE-- THINGS!!
HEH. LOOKS LIKE "BLADIN'" IS LIKE RIDIN' A BIKE... YOU NEVER FORGET!
I WONDER IF THAT GOES FOR BEING A "TAGGER" TOO?
THAT WAS LOW, CHIEF
YOU KNOW WHOSE SIDE I'M ON!!
WAIT HERE!! I'LL BE BACK!!
--WITH REESE!!

hey!!
HEY!!!!
MY CAR!!
KK
KF

...well...
I WONDER, CARMEN...
DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHOSE SIDE YOU'RE ON?
SIR...
MY APOLOGIES, SIR...
THE PRIEST ESCAPED OUR TRAP.
NO MATTER.
CONFIRMING HIS PRESENCE WAS OUR TRUE TASK.
BUT...
THAT "DIVINE EYE"...
WE'RE LOW ON STRENGTH NOW.
WE NEED ANOTHER.
NO...
NO NEED TO TAP "THE POWER".
OUR MASTER APPROACHES THE CITY...
SOON.
WE WILL HAVE ALL WE NEED.
ALL THAT REMAINS...
...IS TO MAKE SURE NONE OF THE HEIRS ESCAPE!
YSHA

CARMEN.
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
EVERYONE MISSES YOU SINCE YOU LEFT...
IS THAT SO, REESE?
WE CAN TALK MORE. BUT NOT HERE...
WE SHOULD GO.
REESE.
D-DID. YOU MISS ME?
DID YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT I I ASKED?
CARMEN. I'M SORRY
I have to deny myself
I knew you'd say that... You always say that
So, why did you break your promise?
WHY DID YOU DO SOMETHING.
Y...TH-THAT WOULD FORCE ME TO COME BACK AND FIND YOU??
WOULD YOU TWO QUIT FRONTIN'??
YOU KNOW YOU JES WANNA THROW DOWN!! SO GET BUSY!!
BUT MAKE IT QUICK!!
NAC??
THE CLOCK'S TICKIN' Y'ALL!

YOU KNOW WHAT? NEVER MIND.

IF Y' WANNA WASTE TIME WAITIN' F' TH' DRAMA. PFF. THAT'S ON Y'ALL!

BUT--

WE 'BOUT READY TO WADE INTO IT DEEP, AND THAT'S THE TROOF!

SO, REESE. THIS IS YO' LAST CHANCE, KID.

IF I WAS YOU, I'D BE GETTIN' A HANDFUL RIGHT NOW!

YOU KNOW SHE WANTS YOU TO!!

NAC!

DO YOU REALIZE HOW CLOSE YOU ARE TO AN @$$ KICKING RIGHT NOW??

YUP.

BUT

IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS TRYIN' T' GET Y' MAD ENOUGH T' GET ALL UP IN M'FACE...

'N' I AIN'T EVEN TRYIN' TO LOOK DOWN THAT BOUNTIFUL NATURE'S "VALEY"!

IT'S JES HAPPENIN' THAT WAY!

YUP!

NAC.

CARMEN...

IT'S TIME

I JUST ENCOUNTERED A WRATH SHADOW.

WE SHOULD DEPART.

TO THE SANCTUM.

IT'S TIME TO BEGIN THE FIGHT.

WRONG

YOU'RE COMING DOWNTOWN TO ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS, REESE

THE "GAME" IS OVER

IT'S BEEN OVER!!

It's been over since we were kids.

CARMEN.

IT'S NOT A GAME.

IT NEVER WAS

FROM THE MOMENT YOU TOLD US YOUR DREAM, CARMEN.
WE ALL BELIEVED.
WE STILL BELIEVE...
THE ONLY ONE WHO'S EVER DOUBTED THAT DREAM...
WAS YOU
WAIT
EVERYONE HOLD UP!!
RIGHT HERE!!
THIS SPOT RIGHT HERE IS PERFECT!
GALE! HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE!?

SIXTEEN MINUTES, THIRTEEN SECONDS BEFORE OUR PATROL PATTERN LOSES ITS EFFICIENCY.
CARMEN-WHAT'S UP?
A SHORT BREAK WILL NOT LEAVE OUR TERRITORY VULNERABLE
I HAD A DREAM LAST NIGHT
A DREAM ABOUT US..
LEMME SHOW YOU
DEEP UNDERGROUND, SOMETHING DARK...HUNGRY .. IS COMING TO THE SURFACE... TOWARDS US...
ALL OF US.
IT DON'T CARE ABOUT SQUADS, GANGS, POLICE, ARMIES OR NATIONS... IT WANTS ALL OF US!!
THE WRATH...
SMH
WHEN I SAW IT, SUDDENLY EVERYTHING THAT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME SEEMED LIKE NOTHING....
Damn, I was scared.
BUT...
SOMETHING INSIDE ME-- MADE ME FEEL LIKE I COULD FIGHT THE DARKNESS
A SPIRIT PROTECTS ME...
GENHANAN-- THE PALADIN--
A LEADER... A TEACHER... A STRATEGIST IN MY DREAM, I HAVE HIS POWER...
AND I'M NOT ALONE!
GALE, YOU HAVE EXTHELON-- THE ASSASSIN...
INVISIBLE... PRECISE... ABLE TO SEE OR FIND ANY WEAKNESS...
NAC, YOU HAVE IDARIA-- THE ROGUE...
CUNNING, CLEVER TO HER, NOTHING WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN ..
REESE, YOU HAVE ATMOS-- THE PRIEST...
WISE .. EMPATHIC..
HE WAS ALWAYS PREPARED!
HIS FORESIGHT WAS TWENTY-TWENTY!!
A LONG TIME AGO, THEY DROVE THE DARKNESS BACK. .
A LONG TIME AGO, THEY WERE FRIENDS. JUST LIKE US!

AND SO

WHEN I SAW THIS SPOT---

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE THE PERFECT PLACE

FOR A MEMORIAL TO THEM

DAMN, GIRL WHEN YOU SPIN IT... YOU SPIN IT WEIRD!!

BUT, WHAT'S REALLY WEIRD??

I'M TOTALLY UP ON THAT VIBE!!

I FEEL YOU

I concur

Your anecdote indeed moved me...

THAT WAS NO ORDINARY DREAM...

SO, "PALADIN" WHEN DO WE STEP TO "THE WRATH"?

HAH!! YOU THINK WE'RE READY? THINK AGAIN!

YOU THINK JUST BECAUSE WE CAN HANDLE SOME CHUMP THUGS WE'RE ALL THAT?

WE'RE STRONG BUT WE GOTTA GET STRONGER!

WE GOTTA TRAIN!

'CAUSE IF WE LOSE IT'S ALL OVER

ALLY!

IT'S GOIN' DOWN... SOON. LET'S GET READY

WHY DID I SAY THOSE WORDS THAT DAY?

WHY COULDN'T I STOP MYSELF FROM SAYING THOSE WORDS..?

IT WAS JUST A DREAM...

JUST A DREAM...

BUT TODAY

THAT CREATURE

THE "PRIEST SPELLS" WE'RE USED

AND THE ABILITIES I HAVE.. MY STRENGTH. MY SPEED. IT'S NOT NORMAL...

ARE THESE GENHANAN'S ABILITIES?

NO. .

There has to be a logical explanation

--THAT DREAM WAS TOO STRANGE-- TOO FRIGHTENING TO BE REAL--
BRR!
BRR!
BRR!
OFFICER SPEARS HERE...
CARMEN, WHAT'S YER STATUS?
DID YOU GET A HOLD OF REESE?
>SIGH< NO... HE---
GOT AWAY
NEVER MIND HIM, THEN. OFFICER HARDY AND A FEW OTHERS ARE HANDLIN' THIS INVESTIGATION ANYWAY...
COME ON IN.. WE GOT A DOMESTIC TO HANDLE
AS FOR THAT CREATURE WE SAW.. AND ALL THAT FLASHY STUFF...
PROBABLY MAKE UP AND BOTTLE-ROCKETS...
YEAH.. PROBABLY
REESE I'M SORRY
WHEN I TOLD YOU MY DREAM, YOU HAD FAITH IN WHAT I SAW...
YOU JUMPED IN WITH BOTH FEET. BLIND-FOLDED... WITH-OUT A SECOND THOUGHT...
BUT... I CAN'T I JUST CAN'T TAKE THAT SAME LEAP...
I'm sorry
A--ALL RIGHT CHIEF
I'M COMING BACK..
DISPATCH, THIS IS CAR ONE ONE SIX.. WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE ADDRESS OF THE DOMESTIC, OVER...
THE BRONX..
THESE STREETS
WERE MY OLD HOME...
IS THERE A REQUEST FOR BACKUP, ONE ONE SIX? WE HAVE TWO CARS IN YOUR AREA..
IT'S A LOT BETTER NOW THAN IN THE OLD DAYS...
NEGATIVE. LOOKS ROUTINE

YOU WAIT HERE, KID...
THE DILLARDS GET DEFENSIVE WHEN MORE THAN ONE BADGE IS IN THEIR HOME.
THAT'S NOT THE PROCEDURE, CHIEF...
YOU NEED YOUR BACK WATCHED...
"PROCEDURE" AND ME DON'T MIX, CARMEN..
YOU KNOW THAT
FINE, WHATEVER JUST BE CAREFUL...
I LOVE THE BRONX SCARS, WARTS AND ALL!!
I WANT TO PROTECT IT...
WHICH IS WHY I FIRST FORMED THE "TAGGERS"
TO DRIVE OUT THE PUNKS AND PUSHERS
BUT THE CHIEF HE'S WHY I LATER DECIDED TO JOIN THE N.Y.P.D.
NOBODY LOVES MY HOME MORE THAN HE DOES ..
WHEN ALL THE OTHER OFFICERS JUST PASSED BY. . IGNORING THE THUGS..
THE CHIEF CAME AND STAYED...
HE MADE OUR HOME PEACEFUL!
HE KNOWS EVERYBODY HERE, AND WE ALL KNOW HIM!
WEARING THAT UNIFORM... AND BEING THERE WITH US...
HE COULD DO WHAT ALL THE TAGGIN' AND FIGHTIN' I USED TO DO COULDN'T.
MAKE EVERYBODY FEEL SAFE .

those
THOSE WERE THE NATIONAL GUARD UNITS. ..!!
BUT--
THEY AREN'T SCHEDULED TO DRILL UNTIL NEXT SATURDAY!!
THEY'RE HEADED SOUTH...
TOWARDS THE CITY LIMITS..
WITH THEIR WEAPONS INSTALLED AND LOADED...
WHA T'S...
going on...?
CARMEN!!
THERE'S A DEAL GOIN' DOWN NEXT DOOR TO THE DILLARDS!!
CARMEN!! GET UP HERE!!
I NEED BA
BAM!

CHIEF!
TCH!
KRK

c-CHIEF...
what's going on here?
I thought---
I TOLD YOU... DON'T CALL ME "CHIEF"
I'M NOT "THE CHIEF" ANYMORE---
I'M SOMETHING MORE.
I'M PART OF SOMETHING GREATER!
SOMETHING THAT NEEDS NO LAW... NO PROTECTION...
SOMETHING THAT DESIRES NO DISORDER... NO CHAOS...
SOMETHING THAT EXISTS BLISSFULLY... SERVING THE SWEET AGONY OF DARKNESS...

CHIEF--
THIS AIN'T FUNNY--
I-IF THIS IS A JOKE, I'M [redacted]...
YOU KNOW THIS IS NO JOKE, CARMEN...
PALADIN...
YOU KNOW IT IN YOUR HEART...
Th--
THE WRATH--
CHIEF... YOU'RE...
YOU'RE WITH THE WRATH...
IT TAKES SO VERY LITTLE TO DARKEN THE HUMAN SOUL... PALADIN.
KINDNESS UNAPPRECIATED. VIRTUE UNRECOGNIZED... LOYALTY UNREWARDED...
AN HONEST LAW OFFICER PASSED OVER TIME AND AGAIN FOR PROMOTION
SMALL SEEDS OF DISCONTENT YIELDING THE DARKEST OF HARVESTS!
ALL I NEED DO IS REAP WHAT YOU HUMANS SOW...

WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY I CAME HERE...

BUT NOT ALONE... I CAME AS A LEGION...

cannon fire.

Ahhhhh. YOU HEARD THAT, DIDN'T YOU, PALADIN.

IT HAS BEGUN--

THE FUTILE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE INEVITABLE.

YOUR GOVERNMENTS YOUR LEADERS ONLY NOW BEGINNING TO COMPREHEND THEIR PERIL ARE SENDING IMPOTENT FORCES AGAINST MY SHADOWS.

SENDING THEIR SOLDIERS MACHINES. WEAPONS. AGAINST MY LEGION.

TO PUT IT IN YOUR TERMS--

IT'S AN ACT LIKENED TO DOUSING A FIRE WITH GASOLINE!!

YOUR SOLDIERS BECOME MY SOLDIERS!!

YOUR WEAPONS BECOME MY WEAPONS!!

YOUR SOULS BECOME MY SOULS!!

AND WHEN YOUR ARMIES ARE OBLITERATED...

AND THOSE WHOM THEY PROTECT ARE HELPLESS...

MY HARVEST-- MY FEAST-- WILL TRULY BEGIN!!!

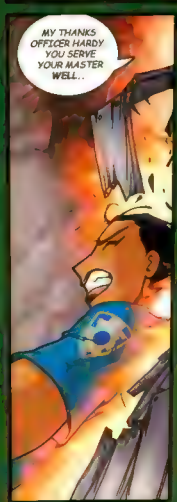
AS IT HAPPENED IN VIRGINIA--- AS IT IS HAPPENING HERE--

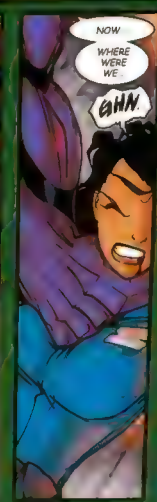
AS IT WILL HAPPEN WITH YOU, PALADIN

WE KNOW YOU..
WE KNOW OF THE DREAM YOU BROUGHT TO YOUR FRIENDS
WE ALSO KNOW OF THE NIGHTMARE
THE NIGHTMARE YOU KEPT FROM THEM
PALADIN YOUR SOUL IS OURS NOW
YOUR DESTINY IS OURS!
AND THROUGH YOU...
YOUR FRIENDS AND THE LEGACY!
FALL!
NEVER

crack
crack
crack
crack
crack
!?

I WAS THERE IN YOUR DREAM.
WHEN GENHANAN TOOK YOUR HAND AND REVEALED TO YOU MY ESSENCE...
I COULD TASTE YOUR FEAR. AS YOU PERCEIVED MY DARKNESS.
...AS YOU REALIZED HUMANITY'S PERIL...
BUT YOU WERE BRAVE, WEREN'T YOU
YOU DID NOT TURN AWAY
CRACK
I WAS ALSO THERE IN YOUR NIGHTMARE...
REMEMBER?
HOW I DODGED YOUR ATTACKS?
HOW I APPROACHED YOU?
DO YOU REMEMBER?
WHAT CAME NEXT?
hmmm YOU TRY TO FLEE...
IN YOUR NIGHTMARE, YOU CONTINUED TO FIGHT...
NO!
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER!!
FATE IMPROVISES!


MY THANKS OFFICER HARDY. YOU SERVE YOUR MASTER WELL...


NOW
WHERE WERE WE.
GHN.

AH. YES.
YOUR NIGHTMARE.
WHERE YOU SAW YOURSELF
HELPLESS... BEATEN...
BUT THAT WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING. WASN'T IT.

YOUR FRIENDS CAME TO YOUR RESCUE...
AND CHARGED RIGHT INTO MY TRAP!
THERE WAS NO ESCAPE..
ONLY DEFEAT...
PAIN
AND DEATH..
NATURALLY, I SAVED YOU FOR LAST..

THIS IS THE MOMENT YOU FEARED, PALADIN...
THE MOMENT FATE DELIVERS THE LEGACY.
AND HUMANITY...
TO THE WRATH!!!
hm, hm..
hm, hm, hm..

YOU'RE WRONG!!
THEY AIN'T COMIN'!
THEY CAN'T!!
I SKIPPED OUT ON MY FRIENDS
They're safe!
They don't know I'm here...!
Go ahead and kill me
They won't feel it.

YOU SOUND AS THOUGH WE WOULD NOT CARE, CARMEN..
..IF YOU DIED..
THAT IS INCORRECT!
THOUGH YOU REFUSED TO TRUST US WITH YOUR FEARS...
AND REPUDIATED ALL OF OUR ATTEMPTS TO CONSOLE YOU AND YOUR DOUBTS..
WE CANNOT CEASE CARING FOR YOU
WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS, CARMEN
WE WILL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU
EVEN TAKE A BULLET TO THE TEMPLE
THOUGH..
REESE'S DIVINE PRAYER AGAINST A SINGLE MORTAL WOUND DID ENABLE MY SURVIVAL...
G-GALE!!
GET AWAY!!
I'M SERIOUS!!
HE'S TOO STRO
AHAHAHAHAHA
YOU SEE, PALADIN!??
YOUR VISIONS FORTELL THE TRUE, INDUBITABLE FUTURE!!
YOUR FATES ARE SEALED!!
AS ARE YOUR INELUCTABLE DEATHS!!

TELL ME, ASSASSIN.
HOW WILL YOU ESCAPE?
HOW WILL YOU WIN?
HOW WILL YOU LIVE??
TELL ME!!!
AGAINST THE MULTITUDE OF SHADOWS WAITING FOR YOU OUTSIDE!
AGAINST THE INDESTRUCTIBLE SHADOWS THAT WILL SOON RISE IN THIS ROOM!?
AGAINST FATE!!
AGAINST ME!!!
EVERYONE HAS A WEAKNESS, DEMIWRATH.
EVERY WALL, A CRACK.
I DON'T!!
YOU DO.
YOU OVERLOOK SMALL, MINOR DETAILS.
FOR EXAMPLE.
HOW WAS I ABLE TO CONCEAL FROM YOU THAT I WAS NOT YOUR SLAVE?
DIVINE PRAYERS ONLY PROTECT AND HEAL...
THEY DO NOT DECEIVE
SO... HOW?

That--that spell...!!
M-MASTER!!
but that's impossible!!
I KILLED HER!!!
I KILLED HER!
Now, Jade!
YEHEHH
GAME IS ON!

HUAHOOPAW!

JOE-COMBOS ADD MUCH FLAVOR TO YOUR RICE!

GALE!

YOU'VE GOT A CLEAR SHOT!!

"SPEAKING "OUT OF LIPSYNCH" -F

DEMIWRATH BEFORE, YOU ASKED "HOW WILL WE ESCAPE"?

"HOW WILL WE WIN"?

HOW DO YOU LIKE OUR ANSWER!?

HMPH!!

SO YOU MANAGED TO JOIN WITH THE FIGHTER'S LEGACY. . .

AND THE WIZARD'S LEGACY SURVIVES...

IT DOESN'T MATTER!!

GAH!!

H-HUH??
WHAT WAS THAT??
I JUST--
WHAT DID I JUST SEE??
YOU'VE ONLY MADE IT EASIER TO KILL MYSELF
MASTER..!!
...THERE ARE SAPPERS NEAR THE STAIRWELL ENTRANCE OF THIS ROOM!!
BEWARE!!
THEY COULD BE QUITE EFFECTIVE AT UNBALANCING YOU IF LEFT UNCHECKED!!
WE'VE BEEN NOTICED!
HOW THE HELL??
WE DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND!!!

HMMM NOW I SEE THEM!!
EXCELLENT WORK, SLAVE!
#%$!!
MOVE!
VICKY!!
COME, JOSEPH. DON'T HESITATE NOW!!!
YOU...
FIGHT ME!
LET US FINISH WHAT WE BEGAN IN VIRGINIA
JUST DON'T CRY FOUL IF YOU DISAGREE WITH MY CHOICE FOR A SHIELD!!
SO that's why
YOU SEE MY GRIP THE ONLY WAY OUT...
IS WITH A BROKEN NECK!
THAT'S WHY HE HASN'T KILLED ME YET...
HUH??
ANOTHER?
WHAT AM I SEEING??
MASTER-
...A WORD OF CAUTION...
...THE PRIEST WILL ARRIVE JUST OUT-SIDE IN A MOMENT!!!
HE COULD DISRUPT OUR ACTIVITIES UNLESS HE IS OTHER-WISE OCCUPIED!!

HM, HM, HMM MY THANKS, CHIEF'S
I KNOW JUST WHERE HE IS NOW!
HE AND THE HEIR OF THE WIZARD ARE STAYING MISSION.
TRYING TO EXECUTE WHATEVER DOOMED STRATAGEM THEY'VE HATCHED.
BY NOW THEY'RE REALIZING
HOW RAPIDLY THEIR PLANS ARE UNRAVELLING!
BY NOW, THEY HAVE ABANDONED THEIR FIGHT FOR VICTORY!
...FOR SURVIVAL!
HM HM HM

DAMN IT!!
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!!!
JUST LIKE VIRGINIA!!
WHY?
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO
WHY CAN'T WE WIN?!!

NO MATTER HOW HARD WE FIGHT--
--WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING!!
WHY DID THE LEGACY CHOOSE US!!??
WHY DIDN'T IT CHOOSE STRONGER, WISER PEOPLE FOR IT'S POWER!!?
WHY DID IT CHOOSE ME AND MY FRIENDS...
WHY DID IT CHOOSE RUSSE AND HER FRIENDS...
WHEN NONE OF US...NOT ONE OF US..
CAN DO ANYTHING!?

NOTHING-
EXCEPT DIE--
!!!
WH-
KRAK

SHE... DID IT!! SHE HURT HIM!!
BUT HOW!??
MY "KILLING STRIKE" PIERCES BONE, ROCK, STEEL!!
YET I COULD ONLY SCRATCH HIS ARMOR!!
HOW DID CARMEN
SHIVA!! OUR PALADIN HAS "AWAKENED"!!
WAS A "SMITE"...
NINE TO GO, THEN.
NO, VICKY THAT
Holy-
Vicky, please don't
REESE? SHIVA?? WAS THAT YOU??
WE NEED THAT WEAPON, HOWEVER.
VICKY!! IT LANDED FORTY MILES WEST!!

DON'T YOU TWO DO ANYTHING DUMB WHILE I'M GONE...
DON'T WORRY... SHIVA AND I ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF DEFENDING OUR CURRENT POSITION...
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!!
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW I HAVE TO KEEP BOTH OF YOUR BACKS --
--COVERED..
guys...
SHIVA... YOU SAID YOU MANAGED TO BRING A SHADOW TO OUR SIDE...
--BUT I DON'T KNOW IF DUKE WILL FALL UNDER THE DEMI-WRATH'S INFLUENCE--
I TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT, THEN. THOUGH, THIS MAY BE AN OPPORTUNITY--
GUYS!
.....

Damn!
I UNDERSTAND NOW.
I KNOW NOW
MY VISIONS... MY DREAMS...
THEY AREN'T THE FUTURE.
THEY'RE AN ASPECT OF GENHANAN'S POWER...
GENHANAN'S INCREDIBLE STRATEGIC TALENTS AND ABILITIES...
ARE NOW MINE. .
THROUGH THEM, I CAN "SEE" PREDICT..
THE WRATH IS AFRAID OF THAT POWER--
IT LIED TO KEEP ME CONFUSED
IT LIED TO MAKE ME AFRAID
THEN IT STOLE GLIMPSES OF MY VISIONS...
THE CHIEF HE WAS TAILOR-MADE TO PEER INTO MY MIND...
YOU USED ME AGAINST MY FRIENDS...
WHICH WINS YOU A RIGHTEOUS BEAT-DOWN!!
JOE, GALE
THESE LAST TWO PROTECTING THE DEAF-WRATH.
ARE GOING TO TRY TO DOUBLE-TEAM JOE
GUARD YOUR NECK.
THANKS!
AND ESPECIALLY YOUR GROIN!!

LIKE I EVEN NEED THAT WARNING!!

I'LL REMEMBER YOU SAID THAT

WHAT HAPPENED?

AT FIRST THIS WAS SO HARD--

THESE ARE THE SAME WRATH-SHADOWS...

THEY'RE STILL WAY TOO STRONG

AND...

NONE OF US HAVE REALLY GOTTEN ANY STRONGER...

EXCEPT....

SO that's why

GALE!! NOW!!

THERE'S SOME KIND OF SYNERGY...

BEFORE, WE WERE INDIVIDUALS FIGHTING TOGETHER

BUT MORE AND MORE...

...LITTLE BY LITTLE...

WE FIGHT AS ONE.

I CAN HEAR MAC AND TRACY ON THE STAIR-WELL

TRACE!

I'M GOIN' UP TOO!

THEY FEEL IT TOO...

AND THE SHADOWS DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH 'EM!!

SO, THAT'S WHY...

THAT'S WHY THE LEGACY CHOSE US...
SEPARATELY WE CAN'T EVEN SEE THE WRATH!!!
BUT WHEN WE LINK UP...
WE OWNE!!
YEAH!!
THAT SHOULD BE IT!!!
LETS GET BACK TO CARMEN BEFORE ANY MORE SHOW!!!
NAG!!
LOOK!!!
OH...
SNAP...

FINISHED
GOOD...
JOE? YOU OKAY?
Heh.
GIMME A SEC...*
* A FEW OCTAVES HIGHER
HURRY UP AND HEAL, THEN...
WE STILL NEED YOU!!
GALE'S FASTER...
I'M STRONGER...
...BUT WE CAN'T FIGHT AS WELL AS YOU CAN.
WE NEED YOU, 'CAUSE HE'S NEXT!!
GALE IS HE STILL WEAK WHERE I HURT HIM?
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HIS SHADOWS BOUGHT HIM ENOUGH TIME TO FULLY REGENERATE!
...
THIS...
CAN'T BE RIGHT...
HE'S... NOT INJURED!!
HE'S FEIGNING WEAKNESS!!
HE'S... STRONGER!! MUCH STRONGER!!
BUT-- DISABLING THE SHADOWS IN THIS AREA SHOULD HAVE CUT INTO HIS STRENGTH!!
Idiots.

MAYBE MORE SHADOWS ARE OUTSI--

AW -- HEYEH-- HEYEHHH, NAW!

WELL... THIS WOULD EXPLAIN HIS INCREASE IN STRENGTH...

....

78...

358...

16,567..

482,834...

2,320,[illegible]--

That's enough, Gale...

Please... stop counting...

Reese...

You were right...

I ASKED YOU TO RUN AWAY WITH ME...

AFTER I HAD MY NIGHT-MARE...

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO... BUT YOU COULDN'T...

"YOU HAD TO DENY YOURSELF"...

YOU WERE RIGHT... THERE WAS NO WAY WE COULD HAVE ESCAPED FROM THIS...

BUT...

WE SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO NAC THIS MORNING...

WE... SHOULD HAVE KISSED...

...before it was too late...

As there is light, so there is shadow...
Battling eternally.
The heroes of every age may push
darkness back, but may not destroy it.
It has only to wait until they are but memories,
and emerge anew to wreak its terror.
So the task of conquest and vigilance passes to the
unprepared future.
To protect mankind was born...

The LEGACY

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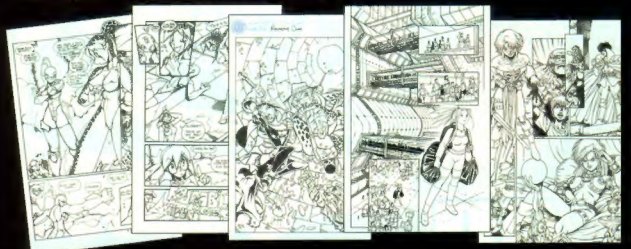

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